

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 L-03 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

MC-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IGA-02 COME-00

AID-20 DRC-01 /142 W

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R 040615Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 175900

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0867

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TC

SUBJ: ABU DHABI INTEREST IN US-LICENSED APC'S

GEF: ROME 7895; STATE 137266

1. DURING CALL ON BRIG POPE, COMMANDER OF ABU DHABI LAND FORCES, JULY 3, AMBASSADOR MENTIONED REQUEST FROM ITALIAN MOD FOR APPROVAL OF US-LICENSED APC SALE TO ABU DHABI, AND ASKED FOR ANY INFORMATION HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE. POPE SAID HE NORMALLY TRIES TO STAY OUT OF ARMS PURCHASES, AND DID NOT SPECIFICALLY KNOW OF TBIS APPROACH, BUT SAID IT UNDOUBTEDLY RELATED TO PLAN TO FORM SECOND ARMORED CAR REGIMENT AS PART OF OVERALL EXPANSION OF ADDF LAND FORCES TO BE COMPLETED BY END 1975. HE SAID APC'S WERE NEEDED TO CARRY ASSAULT INFANTRY COMPONENT OF REGIMENT. AS FOR NUMBERS, POPE SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION 30 APC'S WERE NEARER NUMBER REQUIRED, BUT SUPPOSED ADDF CHIEF OF STAFF SHAIKH FAISAL (WHO HANDLES ARMS PURCHASES) MIGHT WISH TO BUY SOME EXTRAS. POPE SAID DECISION HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE TO BUY FRENCH ARMOGED CARS AND BECAUSE OF THIS HE HAD ASSUMED APC CONTRACT WOULD ALSO GO FRENCH IN INTEREST OF STANDARDIZATION, PARTICULARLY SINCE, IN OPINION POPE, "FRENCH MAKE A PRETTY GOOD APC". POPE SAID HE THOUGHT
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APPROACH TO ITALIANS MIGHT REPRESENT SHOPPING AROUND ON PART

OF SHAIKH FAISAL.

2. POPE'S SPECULATIONS MAY BE ACCURATE, BUT WE CANNOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT ADDF INTEREST IN M-113'S IS REAL. SINCE FMS AGREEMENT NOT YET IN FORCE (MSG OM THIS SUBJECT COMING TO YOU SHORTLY), WE BELIEVE USG SHOULD APPROVE SALE OF APC'S ON BASIS SPECIFIC ASSURANCE TO BE SOUGHT FROM UAEG ON THIS ITEM (PARA 3 SECOND REFTTEL). QUANTITY OF APC'S ADDF PROPOSES TO PURCHASE IS LIMITED AND EVEN WHEN THIS ADDITIONAL ARMORED CAR REGIMENT IS FORMED, IT WILL NOT ALTER PRESENT BASIC ADDF POSTURE AND CAPABILITY WHICH LIMITED TO DEFENSE/INTERNAL SECURITY. EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SALE OF THIS QUANTITY OX APC'S WOULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ANYWHERE OUTSIDE OF UAE.

3. IF DEPARTMENT APPROVES SALE ON BROAD POLICY GROUNDS, WE COULD RAISE MATTER AND SEEK REQUIRED THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER ASSURANCE FROM EITHER CINC SHAIKH KHALIFA OR HIS DEPUTY, COFS SHAIKH FAISAL UPON THEIR RETURN FROM ABROAD.
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